

1           A RESOLUTION expressing the belief that the Government of the People's  
2 Republic of China made multiple serious mistakes in the early stages of the COVID-19  
3 outbreak that heightened the severity and spread of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic,  
4 including the intentional spread of misinformation to downplay the risks of COVID-19, a  
5 refusal to cooperate with international health authorities, internal censorship of doctors  
6 and journalists, and a malicious disregard for the health of ethnic minorities.

7           WHEREAS, the records of the Government of the People's Republic of China  
8 suggest the first human became infected with COVID-19 on November 17, 2019, in the  
9 Hubei Province of China; and

10           WHEREAS, on December 27, 2019, Zhang Jixian, a doctor from the Hubei  
11 Provincial Hospital of Chinese and Western Medicine, alerted health authorities in China  
12 that several individuals exhibiting mysterious, flu-like symptoms, were infected with a  
13 novel strain of coronavirus; and

14           WHEREAS, Dr. Yu Wenbin and a team of researchers from Xishuangbanna  
15 Tropical Botanical Garden reported the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market greatly  
16 contributed to the spread of COVID-19 throughout the city of Wuhan; and

17           WHEREAS, after being informed of cases of a dangerous new strain of coronavirus  
18 concentrated around the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in Wuhan, the Government  
19 of the People's Republic of China waited 5 days to close the market; and

20           WHEREAS, Zhou Xianwang, the mayor of Wuhan, stated 5,000,000 of the  
21 14,000,000 residents of Wuhan left the city before the Government of the People's  
22 Republic of China imposed a lockdown; and

23           WHEREAS, on December 30, 2019, Ai Fen, the director of the emergency  
24 department of Wuhan Central Hospital, shared a diagnostic report on the then unknown  
25 COVID-19 virus with a group of doctors through the social media application WeChat;  
26 and

27           WHEREAS, on December 30, 2019, Dr. Li Wenliang, warned his medical school

1 classmates of an outbreak of an unknown SARS-like virus through WeChat; and

2 WHEREAS, on December 30, 2019, Wuhan Central Hospital authorities formally  
3 reprimanded Ai Fen for "spreading rumors" about the virus; and

4 WHEREAS, on January 1, 2020, an official at the Hubei Provincial Health  
5 Commission ordered at least 1 private genomics testing company to cease testing samples  
6 of a SARS-like virus from Wuhan and to destroy all existing samples of the virus; and

7 WHEREAS, on January 3, 2020, the Public Security Bureau of Wuhan detained,  
8 questioned, and forced Dr. Li Wenliang and 7 other doctors to sign a letter confessing that  
9 Wenliang had made "false comments" that "severely disturbed the social order"; and

10 WHEREAS, on January 3, 2020, the leading public health authority in China, the  
11 National Health Commission, directed all research institutions in China to cease publicly  
12 publishing any information related to a then unknown SARS-like virus and ordered them  
13 to destroy existing samples of the virus or transfer them to approved testing sites; and

14 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention first asked permission  
15 to study COVID-19 in China on January 6, 2020, but was barred by the Government of  
16 the People's Republic of China from entering the country until mid-February; and

17 WHEREAS, authorities of the Government of the People's Republic of China first  
18 publicly confirmed the existence of COVID-19 on January 9, 2020, 14 days after the  
19 presence of a novel strain of coronavirus was internally confirmed; and

20 WHEREAS, the National Health Commission of China publicly denied that  
21 COVID-19 was transmissible through person-to-person contact until January 15, 2020,  
22 despite having uncovered contrary evidence in late December and having been alerted of  
23 the transmissibility of COVID-19 on January 1, 2020; and

24 WHEREAS, on January 18, 2020, more than 10,000 families attended the annual  
25 Lunar New Year Banquet of Wuhan, which was organized and sponsored by the Wuhan  
26 city government; and

27 WHEREAS, the People's Daily, the largest newspaper in China, first reported on

1 the coronavirus on January 21, 2020, nearly a month after the virus was internally  
2 confirmed; and

3 WHEREAS, on February 7, 2020, 1 month after checking into Wuhan Central  
4 Hospital, Dr. Li Wenliang died of a severe case of COVID-19; and

5 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 outbreak has disproportionately harmed the persecuted  
6 Uyghur Muslim minority of China as a result of actions taken by the Government of the  
7 People's Republic of China; and

8 WHEREAS, the Government of the People's Republic of China detained more than  
9 1,000,000 Uyghur Muslims and other ethnic minorities in "re-education camps" where  
10 crowded and unsanitary conditions make the camps hotspots for viral disease and leave  
11 prisoners at an elevated risk of contracting COVID-19; and

12 WHEREAS, as reported by the Uyghur Human Rights Project, and corroborated by  
13 video evidence and Radio Free Asia, an unannounced and strictly enforced quarantine of  
14 millions of residents of the predominantly Uyghur Muslim Xinjiang Province of China  
15 around January 24, 2020 resulted in mass starvation and shortages of basic medical  
16 supplies; and

17 WHEREAS, on February 25, 2020, Xinhua News Service reported that the  
18 Government of the People's Republic of China had "re-located" 30,000 Uyghur laborers  
19 to temporarily shuttered factories in the Hotan prefecture, exposing them to health risks  
20 that the Government of the People's Republic of China determined were unacceptable for  
21 the ethnically Han majority; and

22 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the premier infectious  
23 disease research institution in the world, was well situated at the beginning of the  
24 COVID-19 outbreak to both assist the response of the people and Government of the  
25 People's Republic of China and prepare the people and Government of the United States  
26 to handle the virus in the case of international spread; and

27 WHEREAS, the National Health Commission of China failed to include individuals

1 who tested positive for COVID-19 but remained asymptomatic in its daily tally of  
2 confirmed COVID-19 cases, hampering the ability of public health authorities in the  
3 United States to accurately account for the rate of spread and the health risks of the virus;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, a Foreign Ministry Spokesman of the Government of the People's  
6 Republic of China, Zhao Lijian, claimed that COVID-19 originated in the United States  
7 and that the United States Army brought COVID-19 to Wuhan to wage biological warfare  
8 on China; and

9 WHEREAS, other officials of the Government of the People's Republic of China,  
10 including scientists working on the COVID-19 response of China, the Ambassador to  
11 South Africa of China, and the Ambassador to Australia of China, have claimed that there  
12 is no evidence that COVID-19 originated in China; and

13 WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Xinhua News Agency, an official mouthpiece of  
14 the Government of the People's Republic of China, published an article threatening to cut  
15 off medical supply exports to the United States and "plunge [the United States] into the  
16 mighty sea of coronavirus";

17 WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Government of the People's Republic of China  
18 expelled nationals of the United States working at the Wall Street Journal, the  
19 Washington Post, and the New York Times, reducing the spread of reliable information  
20 on the COVID-19 outbreak in China; and

21 WHEREAS, a study by the University of Southampton found that if the  
22 Government of the People's Republic of China had taken action 3 weeks earlier, the  
23 spread of COVID-19 would be reduced by 95 percent globally;

24 NOW, THEREFORE,

25 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***  
26 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

27 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives denounces the actions of the

1 Government of the People's Republic of China for their blatant disregard for the  
2 wellbeing of their citizens and the citizens of the global community in censoring doctors  
3 and journalists during the early days of the COVID-19 outbreak, their refusal to allow  
4 scientists from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to assist its response to  
5 COVID-19 for more than a month after cooperation was offered, their duplicitous denial  
6 by the National Health Commission of China of the person-to-person transmissibility of  
7 COVID-19, and their inhumane detainment of Uyghur Muslims and other persecuted  
8 ethnic minorities.

9       ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a  
10 copy of this Resolution to Kentucky's Congressional delegation.